Galileo Lesson - Sexual Diversity

* Open Prezi & have Student Code of Conduct on hand for reference if necessary
* Intro guests – may or may not choose to intro their own story or sexual preference
* Normality – huge pressure to be normal. It can be distressing to be the odd one out.
* Question – what are some of the things we might do to make ourselves feel or appear more “normal”?
* Hear ideas from group
* Teacher suggestions:
  + Take on what we think are “normal” attitudes, ways of dressing, music etc.
  + Hide parts of ourselves that are different
  + *Make comments about how NOT-NORMAL others are to make us feel more normal*
  + This makes us feel normal but is very hurtful to others!
* Today speaking about sexual diversity – want to celebrate the idea that everyone is different – avoid noises or comments that pressure people to be normal or conform
* People may be uncomfortable, find this topic embarrassing, awkward or confusing that’s ok.
* Therefore: Need to be mature & respectful (look like?, sound like?)
* GLBTI What does it stand for?
  + Groups discuss, report back, teacher clarifies any misunderstanding
* Feelings(Thoughts)BehaviourIdentity model
  + Sexuality is complex, give example
* Question: Who here has gay friends?
* Stats
  + What’s 20% of 25?
  + One fifth = 5 people will not identify as heterosexual
* So you all do, you may just not know it yet. They may not either.
* Why not? Why might someone not know or not tell others that they aren’t heterosexual?
* Table discussion: how might school life be different for LGBTI youth?
  + Report back
* Homophobic bullying/ “That’s so gay”
  + What would it mean to the good friend who you are working with?
  + What would it mean to the friend who you are working with who is questioning his/her sexuality?
  + What would it mean to the gay student who overhears your conversation?
* Differentiate *intentions* from *effects:* Message sent is not always message received
* Question: Potential negative outcomes of using “gay” as a derogatory term?
  + Feel unsafe
  + Miss school
  + Receive lower grades
  + Suicidal thoughts
  + Will not feel safe talking to you about their sexuality - feel alone
* Ways to support gay friends?
  + Don’t use labels which are derogatory
  + Don’t tolerate use of derogatory labels within your friendship group
  + Make sure your friends know that they can count on your support if they are unsure about their sexuality or need to talk about it.

# Feedback

* Everyone gets one post-it square
* Everyone must write on their square, fold it and post it in the box
* Private & Anonymous – no names, do not look at anyone else’s
* Write down any comments or reflections you have:
  + What you thought of this session – positive or negative
  + Anything you wanted to say but didn’t feel comfortable saying to the whole class
  + Any other feedback you have

# Sexuality Continuum

Explain to students:

*‘Sometimes people think in terms of opposites. This is called* ***binary thinking****. For example, people might say that the temperature is either hot or cold or the weather is either dry or wet rather than really thinking about the specific situation.*

* *How do we think about temperature in a* ***non-binary*** *way? (i.e. use degrees Celsius)*

*In most cases where the concept is simple, like the temperature or weather, this is not a problem because it doesn’t affect anyone else. For more complex concepts, like sexuality, binary thinking is not very useful.’*

Ask students:

* How would binary thinking define sexuality? How might someone think in terms of opposites? e.g.Straight, Gay.
* Why is this not useful when determining someone’s sexuality? e.g. not everyone fits into these labels
* How could we think about sexuality in a non-binary way?

# Damaging language

The rate at which students use and hear negative language about lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) people is huge. Over half of all students report hearing homophobic remarks often at school.The common use of anti-LGBT language is directly related to an even bigger problem – the bullying and harassment of LGBT students.

9 out of 10 LGBT students report being harassed at school in the last year. Over one-third of LGBT students have been physically assaulted at school because of their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Such frequent harassment results in LGBT students being more likely than others to:

* Feel unsafe
* Miss school
* Receive lower grades
* Not attend college

Creating a safe environment for all students - LGBT and straight alike - begins with one simple act: thinking before you speak.

A lot of anti-LGBT language is said carelessly, and isn’t intended as negative or hurtful. Understand what you’re saying, and think about the potential consequences of the words you choose.